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CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO AUGMENT CURRENT TOTAL
 OF 3 MILLION AGITATORS FOR NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION

[Comment: On 10 September 1952, the Party Life Section of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao revealed that there are a total of over 2,920,000 agitators (hsuan-ch'uan yuan) in China today. This number is to be increased to the point where agitators will comprise one percent of the population in the rural areas of China and 10 percent of the regular personnel in factories and mines. The large body of agitators, which in Chungking exceeded 10,000 during the Three and Five Antis campaigns, indicates that a primary technique for mass agitation in China is oral dissemination of materials. This is supported by statements in the Party Life Section of the Nanking Hsin-hua Jih-pao for 2 September 1952. In these statements members of an agitation corps (hsuan-ch'uan tui) described how they orally influenced shopkeepers and workers to participate in the national health campaign.

The Jen-min Jih-pao article states that agitation networks (hsuan-ch'uan wang) are to be increased in factories and mines throughout China. The call for an increase of agitators in "basic construction units" is another sign of the current total mobilization for national economic construction.

The full text of the article follows:]

In the past 8 months, there has been a new increase in the activities of Chinese Communist Party agitation networks throughout China. According to latest incomplete data, China has a total of over 2,920,000 agitators -- an increase over 1951 of one million men, or a one-third gain. The greatest number of agitators are in the North and East China administrative regions: over 900,600 for North China (including the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region) and over 850,500 for East China. In addition, there are over 440,800 agitators in the Northeast, over 380,000 in the Central-South Administrative Region, over

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150,800 in the Southwest Administrative Region, and over 80,500 in the Northwest Administrative Region. Agitators in North China and East China have been increased more rapidly and spread more extensively than elsewhere. The total number in North China is already 1.4 percent of the total population of the region and from 80 to 90 percent of all local CCP branches have trained agitators. The total number in East China is already almost 2 percent of the total population of the region and 90 percent of all local CCP branches have trained agitators.

Along with the increase of agitators has gone a concomitant rise in the number of CCP reporters [pao-kao yua]. According to incomplete statistics, there are currently over 60,800 reporters in China -- an increase over 1951 of more than 10,000 men.

The expansion of agitation network operations throughout China has been integrated with the implementation of the Three and Five Antis campaigns, the Re-investigation of Land Reform, the Increase in Production and Economy campaign, the Patriotic Health campaign, and other mass campaigns. Most of the new agitators and reporters are activists who have arisen in the course of these campaigns. Their entry into CCP agitation ranks has resulted in a strengthening of those ranks and the invigoration of CCP mass-agitation operations.

In the course of expanding agitation networks, various local CCP organizations used the Three and Five Antis campaigns and the land reform movement to purify or purge those elements in the agitation networks whose characters were degraded and/or concerning whom there was serious doubt. Various types of leadership systems were devised and implemented. CCP agitation networks became stronger and cleaner. For example, in rural agitation networks in Chahar the number of competent agitators has been increased to 34 percent of the total as compared with 20 percent in 1951. In municipal agitation networks within this province, the number of competent agitators has been increased to from 60-70 percent of the total as compared with 30 percent of 1951. Officials in the Pao-chi Special District, Shensi, were able to motivate 60.6 percent of their agitators to engage actively in agitation operations. Today, 33 percent of the agitators in that special district are able to agitate under the supervision of higher level leadership and only 9.1 percent are completely incompetent. This is concrete proof that during the last half of 1951, the activities of our CCP agitation networks have been improved in many sectors of the nation.

During the Three and Five Antis campaigns, land reform, Reinvestigation of Land Reform, and the Patriotic Health campaigns, agitators and reporters in various areas were heavily engaged in proper agitation operations and proved to be of great value. For example, during the Three and Five Antis campaigns in Chungking, an army of over 10,000 agitators was organized -- with CCP agitators operating as the backbone -- and groups were assigned to factories, thoroughfares, and government agencies to effect an intensive agitation designed to raise the political consciousness of the masses and to push the Three and Five Antis campaigns in the city.

During the May Day celebration, the Lai-yang Party Committee, Shantung, organized a huge agitation corps consisting of 10,205 agitators and 44,369 regular members of mass-agitation organizations. They carried out an extensive and penetrative agitation among the masses and were of incalculable value in stimulating the production increase and Patriotic Health campaigns. Having received this agitation stimulus, in Lai-yang Hsien alone, 3,182 production-increase and mutual-aid teams, 598 production-increase households, and one agricultural production cooperative plunged into production activity with new vitality.

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Reporters in the subdistricts of Sui-ting Hsien, Szechuan, in the first half of 1952, had made a total of 720 reports and were heard by an audience of over 1,354,000 persons. During the summer of 1952, when the drive to "comprehend the ten governmental policies on agricultural production" was begun, officials in Cheng-yang Hsien, Honan, in order to curb production-wrecking operations of enemy saboteurs, placed hsien- and ch'u-level reporters under the personal supervision of Wang Ta-fu, secretary of the Cheng-yang Hsien Party Committee. These reporters were given a secret intensive briefing, trained to work under a division of labor and duties, and sent out to open a hsien-wide agitation attack. Enemy rumors were quickly curbed, the manipulation of superstitious persons by plotters was halted, and order was brought to the rural production tasks of the hsien.

It must be noted, however, that during the first half of 1952 although the activities of the CCP agitation networks have made great strides, the activities of these networks are still lax in many regions of China. Party committees in these regions neglect to take the lead in agitation operations, systems for agitation networks have not been properly instituted, the work of reporters and agitators has not been regularized, and some party committees have even suspended operations.

There are many extreme examples of laxity. According to data on the Yuan-chou Special District, Kiangsi, only about 20 percent of the agitators are actually regularly active, about 60 percent have to be prodded into action, and 15 percent are either completely incompetent or politically impure. The operations of agitators in many areas of the Southwest Administrative Region have, for the most part, and because of the lack of leadership, taken on a free and unsupervised mode of procedure. Similar conditions are found in the old revolutionary areas of the Northeast. For example, 25 percent of the agitators appointed in Kirin are completely incompetent, about 40 percent have to be prodded into action, and only about 30 percent can be rated as relatively valuable in agitation. These facts are clear proof that the phenomenon of formalism in agitators' operations is serious.

The state of reporters' operations is even more serious. For example, a report of the Propaganda Department, Central-South Bureau, Central Committee, CCP, states that reporters' operations in the Central-South Administrative Region have generally slid into the free and unsupervised status. These reporters have become the weak link in agitation network activities there.

A similar situation obtains in the Southwest Administrative Region. In the Northeast, reporters' operations have not been completely regularized. For example, 60 reporters in Port Arthur and Dairen and 60 reporters of the Northeast Railway System have failed to make a single report in the first half of 1952. This is a real indication that the existence of reporters in these regions is a mere formality. Under such conditions, the most important problem confronting the present operations of agitation networks is the strengthening of leadership in the activities of these networks, the suppression of formalism, and the molding of reporters and agitators into capable and reliable workers.

Another current problem in agitation network operations is the uneven expansion of networks; this expansion is inordinately slow in some areas and the number of agitators and reporters is too small and far below the requirements for proper mass agitation. For example, the Central-South Administrative Region has a population of over 136 million persons but only 380,000 agitators have been trained and appointed -- not even three tenths of one percent of the total population. The Southwest Administrative Region has a population of over

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70 million persons but, at present, only 150,000 agitators have been trained and appointed -- about two tenths of one percent of the total population. This is obviously insufficient! The basic organizations of the CCP in these regions are relatively weak; this is the major reason why agitation networks have not been rapidly expanded.

But this is not the only reason. The CCP local committees in some areas do not stress the need for building up agitation networks; this too is an important reason why there has been a slow expansion of networks. During the Three and Five Antis campaigns, only 147 new agitators were trained in the entire province of Sikang. As a result of formalism, up to the end of May 1952, three agitators in only one village of the entire hsien of Ch'eng-pu, Sikang, were trained. These shortcomings must be corrected!

Even in the old revolutionary areas there are many places with CCP committees which have, to this day, failed to develop agitation networks. For example, although Hupeh has the largest number of agitators of any province in China, over 30 percent of the CCP branches in T'ung Hsien have failed to train and appoint a single agitator. The number of agitators in North Kiangsu has been relatively extensively expanded, but of the 155 CCP branches in Fun-t'ung Hsien, 60 have not yet trained and appointed agitators.

Most noteworthy has been the fact that in industry and mining, agitation networks have been inadequately expanded. For example, Shanghai is a major city with a high concentration of industrial workers but at present the total number of agitators does not exceed 7,230 in industry and mining. Agitators in the industrial and mining enterprises of Kirin constitute only 2.5 percent of the regular employees. This situation runs contrary to the demands of the current production-increase and economy campaign and against the needs of the anticipated national large-scale reconstruction program. It is imperative to strengthen and expand agitation networks in industry and mining!

The above-mentioned conditions describe generally the present status of agitation networks in China. In view of these facts, the primary duty for agitation network leaders must be to continue to strengthen and reinforce the networks, strengthen leadership on all level of the CCP committees to aid network operations, to institute systems for operations, and to strive to develop and increase the participation of all agitators and reporters under regular schedules. In addition, it is necessary to establish new networks on the foundations already erected and to concentrate on building more networks in agencies within industry and mining.

To strengthen and improve agitation network operations, all regions must, for the remainder of 1952, integrate their work toward agitation network operations and effect a general investigation and readjustment of these networks. The primary aim of these investigations and readjustments should be to summarize experiences and fix and strengthen various systems for leadership. A model agitator should be selected and given publicity so that others may profit by example. It is essential to stress the summarization of experiences gained in the operations of agitation network leaders on all levels of the hsien and ch'u party committees. Successful experiences must be publicized. Hsien and ch'u party committees guilty of neglecting agitation network operations should be severely criticized.

The Tientsin Municipal Committee, CCP, has recently gained valuable experience in coordinating the readjustment and expansion of agitation networks with the Three and Five Antis campaigns. Their procedure was to coordinate and centralize activities closely and, under the unified leadership and detailed planning of the CCP committee, to mobilize forces from every quarter to

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effect the tasks at hand jointly. This procedure not only advanced agitation network operation to a more vigorous stage of development, but also lent direct to the Three and Five Antis campaigns. This experience should be made the object of study for our rank and file agitators.

To raise the political level and operational efficiency of agitators, in addition to convoking agitation personnel conferences and assisting agitators by means of dissemination stations /ch'uan-shou chan/, the various regions should, for a set period of time, hold short-term and spare-time training classes and order worker and peasant activists in the training classes to take concurrent posts to train agitators. Many areas have already made extensive plans for training new agitators. These plans should be implemented.

At present, most agitators feel that they have little money and are bitter about being unable to advance themselves; thus, the most urgent problem today is to help agitators advance themselves. The primary way to strengthen reporters' operations is to institute a system wherein reporters would submit timely reports on specific topics and would avail themselves of a division of labor. Local CCP committees should regularly investigate their activities and those reporters who, without due cause, fail to effect their assigned tasks, should be severely criticized. Good reporters should be properly praised. Local CCP committees should fix timely themes for reports and should supply extensive materials for such reports. In this way, CCP committees will be able to supervise reporters in carrying out assigned agitation duties.

Agitation networks must be more extensively expanded by the following methods:

1. Agitation networks should be developed in the new rural areas within the Central-South, Southwest, Northwest, and East China administrative regions to aid in rural party building and party reform activity and in the mutual-aid and cooperatives campaigns. Agitation personnel in these new areas should be gradually increased to the point of one percent of the total population. In the old revolutionary areas within the Northeast, North China, and East China administrative regions we must strive for the appointment of new agitators to the original local CCP branches and to new CCP branches to be set up during the present party building drive. Such agitators should reach the point of one percent of the total population.
2. More agitators should be trained and their numbers increased, particularly in industry and mining, basic construction units, and in mutual-aid and cooperative organizations. With regard to the vital matter of basic construction for the coming large-scale economic construction, we must concentrate our effort on extending the CCP's mass agitation to basic construction units. In the rural areas, agitators should be appointed to strategic posts on mutual-aid teams and cooperatives; and these agitators must strive, in each mutual-aid team and peasant production cooperative, to get a CCP agitator appointed. The CCP's political agitation in mutual-aid and cooperative organizations will then be strengthened. In the factories and mines, there should be full quotas of agitation personnel. Their number should be about 10 percent of the number of regular employees so that every shop and cell will be ready to undertake separate agitation.
3. At present, the small number of reporters does not meet the demands of proper agitation operations. Each region must strive to make up this deficiency. Local CCP committees on the ch'u level and above, and those units in industry and mining with a comparatively large number of employees, should train and appoint reporters.

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CCP committees on all levels must draw up concrete plans for developing and strengthening the operations of agitators and reporters. These plans must be put into practice. If there is a continuous strengthening of CCP agitation in the networks, our mass agitation operations will be set on firm foundations and will shortly meet the needs of our national economic construction.

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